

MEN OF MYSTIC AIR

Grand Rapids May Boast of Secret Society Prowess.

THERE ARE A HUNDRED LODGES

Comprising Almost Every Order Known to Christian Nations—Sketch of the Regular Order and Lodges.

Have you ever ridden the goat? If not it is your own fault, for there are twenty-six secret societies in town, embracing about one hundred lodges. Probably the most popular and respected of all these orders is the order that has existed ever since Worthy Master Solomon doctored his apron and with his trowel began the erection of the temple. The benefits and purposes of the order are too well known to need extended mention here, but the Masonic Mutual Benefit association, carrying about \$650,000 worth of insurance for the 1,036 Masons in the city, is one of the chief. The Masonic home, probably the finest institution of the kind in the country, is located at Reed's Lake suburban resort, about three miles east of Grand Rapids. It was erected and is designed as a home for aged Masons and their families. William P. Innes of this city has risen high in Masonic circles, and is Grand Master of the Grand Lodge and Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery.

Lodges of Masons.
The Masonic lodges are as follows: Saladin Temple Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Potomac, Lou B. Winsor. The four lodges of A. A. Scottish Rite are as follows: Grand Chapter, Grand High Priest John F. Barrows, Lawrence; Grand Commandery, R. E. G. C. Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater; Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Michigan, M. I. G. M. Charles E. Bagg, Detroit; Grand lodge, Grand Master Gen. William P. Innes, Manah Lodge of Perfection, T. P. G. M. Harry K. Dean; Cyrus Council Princes of Jerusalem, M. E. S. P. G. M. L. B. Winsor; Robinson Chapter Rose Croix de H. E. D. M., M. W. and P. M. Harvey C. Taft; DeWitt Clinton Consistory Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, commander in chief R. D. Wheeler.

The other lodges are Doris lodge No. 432, Grand River lodge No. 34, North Star lodge No. 4 (colored), Tyre council No. 10 R. and S. Masters, Valley City lodge No. 86.

The Masonic Mutual.
The Masonic Mutual Benefit association, which was organized in 1875, has the following officers: President, Crawford Angell; vice-president, H. N. Moore; secretary, H. W. Walker; treasurer, William Dunham; medical director, A. R. Botsford.

William Dunham is president of the Michigan Masonic Home association, which controls the affairs of the Michigan Masonic home. The other officers are: Vice-president, R. D. Swartout; secretary, William P. Innes; treasurer, T. W. Strahan; councilor, George W. Thompson.

Knights of Pythias.
Few secret organizations have had the phenomenal growth of the Knights of Pythias, founded in 1864, and based upon the beautiful story of Damon

and Pythias. The order has 650 members in this city, comprising five lodges. William H. Loomis, a prominent young business and society man is grand chancellor of the grand lodge of Michigan.

The subordinate lodges, the uniform rank and the endowment rank, are separate institutions, but each is complete in itself. Each lodge has a sick benefit fund, the exact amount paid in sick claims being left optional with each lodge, but not less than \$1 each week must be paid sick brothers. The heirs of deceased brothers are allowed \$25 upon death of the member.

The lodges of the K. P. are as follows: Cowan lodge No. 59, Eureka lodge, Lilly lodge No. 119, Valley City lodge No. 124, Grand Rapids Division No. 6, uniformed rank, Captain James Bayne.

Old Fellows Lodges.
About 1,000 persons in this city have taken the oath that admits them to the secrets of the I. O. O. F. While the order is largely social, the Odd Fellows' Mutual Benefit association has recently been organized with practically the same objects as the Masonic association. There is also a woman's degree, Daughters of Rebecca, which is composed of the women relatives of the sick members of the order. There is also a uniformed rank composed of a fine body of well drilled men. The lodges are as follows: Canton Pierce No. 24, Enterprise lodge No. 406, Grand Rapids lodge No. 11, Grand River lodge No. 408, Imperial lodge No. 427, Phoenix lodge No. 4, South End lodge No. 250, Valley City lodge No. 157.

The Independent Order of Foresters has five lodges and a uniformed rank, as follows: Court Daisy, No. 734; Court Lyon, No. 446; Court Kent, No. 441; Court Rescue, No. 445. The uniformed rank is called the Valley City Encampment, No. 15. The illustrious commander is A. M. Hambleton.

The A. O. U. W. has six lodges. The Select Knights of the A. O. U. W. meet the first and third Thursday of the month. William F. Parrish is P. C. The lodges are: Franklin, No. 18; Grand Rapids, No. 8; Harmony, No. 159; Logie, No. 161; Valley City lodge, No. 116; Washington, No. 141.

The Macabees.
The K. O. T. M. has a large membership embodied in nine lodges. Aside from these there is one lodge of L. O. T. M. comprised of wives and daughters of Sir Knights. The lodges are: Batavia tent, No. 215; Comstock tent, No. 333; Connor tent, No. 33; Crescent Star tent, No. 182; Division tent, No. 479; Grover Cleveland tent, No. 171; Valley City tent, No. 496.

Chosen Friends.
The order of Chosen Friends has four lodges, viz: Eureka council, No. 15; Germania council, No. 68; Leckliedier council, No. 3; Valley City council, No. 17.

The Royal Arcanum has three lodges. They are: Bryant council, No. 182; Grand Rapids council, No. 289; Valley City council, No. 611.

The United Friends of Michigan, six lodges, one of which (Harmony) works in German. They are as follows: Alpha commandery, No. 29; Crescent commandery, No. 40; Friendship commandery, No. 26; Harmony commandery, No. 25; Olive commandery, No. 42.

Woodmen's Camps.
The Modern Woodmen have camped in three places in this city. Camp No. 1089, Valley City camp, No. 1196, and West Side camp, No. 16550.

The Knights of the Golden Eagle have three castles built upon the rock

of public approval. They are as follows: Harmony Castle, Malta Castle and Red Cross Castle, No. 6.

Other societies.
Other secret societies which have not secured the prominence of some of the larger orders are briefly mentioned: Ancient Order of Adhesive Mopulions, Grand Rapids lodge No. 48 B. P. O. E., E. R. J. B. McGinnis; Eureka Conclave, No. 1, Heptasaphi; Julius Houseman lodge, No. 238, I. O. of B. V., president, J. L. Strutsler; Samaritan lodge, No. 357, Knights of Honor, dictator, W. W. Thomas; Hebron Temple, No. 1, P. C. oracle, A. T. Driggs; DeMolai Commandery, No. 5, Knights Templar, E. C. J. C. Herkner; Assembly, No. 18, National Dotare, president, H. B. Baxter, and Grand Rapids Camp, No. 3, Woodmen of the World, C. C. W. F. Warner.

IN THE WORLD OF HELLO'S?

Rapid Development of the Local Company's Plant.

In 1879 a party of Detroit capitalists, men of money, nerve and organization, the Michigan Telephone company and a plant was put into Grand Rapids. The exchange was tucked away in an 8x10 room in the Lovett block and the operators did all the "Hello" business. The furniture of the room consisted of an old fashioned switch board, a hat rack, a desk and a nail keg, which was utilized as a chair. Twenty-one plunging business men were found who were willing to risk \$50 a year for the use of the new fangled talking machines, and they are persons who have been identified with every interest of the city. They are as follows: The First National bank, the Michigan Barrel Company, A. D. & F. L. Noble, Putnam & Brooks, Crescent Mills, Valley City Mills, Berkeley & Gay, H. D. Wallen, Jr., Phoenix Furniture company, O. E. Brown, W. T. Lameroux, Cody, Olney & Co., Foster, Stevens & Co., Robinson, Letellier & Co., Rathbun house, Curtis & Dunton, Julius Berkeley's residence, W. D. Stevens' residence, George C. Pierce's residence and the G. K. & L. freight depot.

The growth of the business has been almost phenomenal until at the present time there are 1,500 subscribers, necessitating the employment of forty operators constantly, and using over 900 miles of wire. Although the system was not introduced here until 1879, the Grand Rapids Telephone company had used a phone between its office and mill for some two years previous and it was an object of much comment, but few persons believing that it had "come to stay."

The first call over the phone was made by Curtis & Dunton (now out of business), who were located on Canal street. They called for the Rathbun house which was located on the present site of the Widdicombe block. At that time S. E. Watson was manager, innkeeper and telephone girl in one and the conversation with which he listened to the conversation over the wire can be imagined.

In two weeks the exchange had grown to sixty-five subscribers, so that June 15, 1879, the first printed catalogue of names had that number. August 1 the number was ninety-two, and later in the fall was 108. The growth was steady and rapid. June 1, 1880, just a year later, there were 160 patrons. A district of Western Michigan had been organized, beginning January 1, 1881, and placed in Sam E. Watson's charge, with exchanges at Muskegon, Grand Haven, Ionia and Big Rapids. At present the exchange connects with about 140 places outside

ALL IN ONE YEAR.

Some Figures on the Improvements Made in This City.

The city marshal has worked 300 resolutions passed by the council, some of them necessitating the serving of 250 notices on property owners. There have been laid nine and one-half miles of water mains at a cost of about \$35,000.

There has been laid by the marshal about seven miles of sidewalk, which is about one-half of the whole amount

of the city, using several hundred more miles of wire. For all of these stations the Grand Rapids office is responsible and must keep them and the tributary wires in repair.

In 1889 the exchange had outgrown its previous quarters and was removed to its present location on the sixth floor of the Budget block. All the latest improvements are there, including an improved switch board, (the invention of Charles L. Boyce, who was formerly manager of this exchange) head phones for the use of operators, etc. Manager Berry told a reporter for THE HERALD that telephone rates were cheaper in Grand Rapids than in any other city of its size in the United States. The company had started in at the present prices and had never changed them. The present value of the property of the exchange, including wire, poles, "phones, etc., is about \$200,000, and the net business of the company amounts to about an equal amount.

LIFE AND DEATH.

A Few Paragraphs From the Records of Vital Statistics.

Activity in the matrimonial line the past year does not equal that of 1891. This is accounted for only on the supposition that some are postponing their nuptials in order to visit the world's fair when they take their wedding trip. The number of marriages in Kent county the past year has been 1,280, approximating the few remaining days at five licenses per day. The year 1891 exceeded them all matrimonially, the number reaching 1,304. In 1890 there were 1,150, and the number for 1889 was 1,151.

The number of persons buried in the city cemeteries this year up to the present time is 1,461. This exceeds the number in former years, but there is more of the city than formerly. The death rate is wonderfully low in Grand Rapids, lower than any of the cities in the country, excepting St. Paul and Minneapolis. The average death rate for last month as compiled by Secretary Wilson of the board of health, was only 9.65 per 1,000. The average for the seven months past is but 14.5 per 1,000, figuring on a basis of 55,000 population.

This basis of population is conceded to be very moderate. For instance, the school department statistics show 22,163 children between the ages of 5 and 20, which multiplied by four, as is commonly done, puts the population considerably higher. There are 19,337 registered voters in the city, which multiplied by five, to include aliens, women, children, etc., which is the usual practice, puts the population still higher. The number of deaths in the city up to this month is 1,106, ranging from seventy in November up to 152 in January. Those who died outside of the city and were buried here number 345.

There have been 1,364 births in the city during the eleven months, a good increase in proportion to population.

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of board walks laid. There has been about eight miles of tar walk laid and about five miles of concrete walk, making about twenty-seven miles laid in the city in 1892.

Streets improved in 1892, 14.56 miles. Sewers built in 1892, 14.1 miles. The city now has laid 42,556 square yards of asphalt, which cost \$123,540. There are 32,478 square yards of brick, which cost the city \$86,066.70. There are 12,740 square yards of cedar blocks on a concrete foundation, costing \$25,830. The remainder of the streets improved are paved with blocks on gravel, and with gravel.

REAL CHILDREN IN LITERATURE

They Are Crowded Out by the Eminent Proper Children of the Wiseacres.

The wise mentors in conventional literature virtually tell you that children literature wants no real children in it; that the real child's example of defective grammar and lack of elegant deportment would furnish to its little patronage suggestions very hurtful indeed to their higher morals, tendencies and ambitions, writes James Whitcomb Riley in the Forum. Then, although the general public couldn't for the life of it see why or how, and might even be reminded that it was just such a rowdying child itself, and that its father—the father of his country—was just such a child; that Abraham Lincoln was just such a lovable, lawless child; all—all this argument would not avail in the least, since the elegantly-minded purveyors of child literature cannot possibly tolerate the presence of any but the refined children—the very proper children—the studiously thoughtful, poetic children—and these must be kept safe from the contaminating touch of our rough-and-tumble little fellows in "hadden gray," with frowzy heads, begrimed but laughing faces, and such awful, awful vulgarities of naturalness, and crimes of simplicity, and brazen faith and trust, and love of life and everybody in it. All other real people are getting into literature; and without some real children along will they not soon be getting lonesome, too?

EDITING THE EDITOR.

How the Advance of Napoleon Made All the Difference in the World.

In March, 1815, the Paris Monitor announced the expected return of Emperor Napoleon from Elba. The first announcement of the Monitor was far from being polite, but as the little Corsican approached Paris a gradual change took place in its tone:

"The cannibal has left his den."
"The Corsican wolf has landed in the bay of San Juan."

"The tiger has arrived at Gay."
"The wretch spent the night at Grenoble."

"The tyrant has arrived at Lyons."
"The usurper has been seen within fifty miles of Paris."

"Bonaparte is advancing with great rapidity, but he will not put his foot inside the walls of Paris."

"To-morrow Napoleon will be at our gates."
"The emperor has arrived at Fontainebleau."

"His imperial majesty Napoleon entered Paris yesterday, surrounded by his loyal subjects."

The government work at Muskegon harbor will continue as long as the weather permits.



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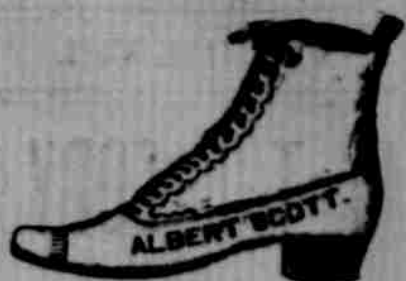
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Every Article of Holiday Goods Must be Sold Before Next Saturday. This is a Big General Sale for One Week.

Magnificent Fancy Work of Every Description at Prices that Will Sell Everything Quick. Nothing Reserved.

At Anti-Holiday Prices.

We want to make everybody a CHRISTMAS PRESENT By giving them the benefit of the best values ever offered in our lines.

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Fancy Baskets, Plain Baskets, Laundry Bags, Hand Embroidered D'Oylies, Hand Embroidered Tray Cloths, Hand Embroidered Squares, Dresser Sets.

Beautiful

Sofa Pillows, Head Rests, Sachet Bags, Mochoir and Glove Boxes, Pin Cushions, Table Covers, Fancy Drapes.

They Must Be Sold.

Don't fail to attend this great Closing out Sale of HOLIDAY GOODS this week.

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CORLE, KNOTT & CO.,

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